



MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

Hotline - 901-664-9246



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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

TOLOS TO TAKE OVER HEENAN FAMILY

STAMFORD CT---Veteran John Tolos is taking over as manager of Curt Hennig, Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom in the World Wrestling Federation. Tolos, to be called "The Coach" will assume control over most of the former Bobby Heenan family.

For some time, Heenan has sought to slow up his road schedule and continue strictly as a comic member of the WWF broadcast team.

GRUMMERT, FRIENDS EVICTED FROM TITAN SHOW

LINCOLN NE---Veteran fans and MATWATCHers Bruce Grummert and the Zajicek twins were evicted from a WWF show here Friday night.

According to sources, Grummert was yelling for wrestlers in a Jim Duggan-Col. Mustafa match to stop stalling and "get to wrestling" and later pointed at the ring to his Ric Flair t-shirt, calling Flair "the real champion."

At intermission, Grummert reportedly went to buy tickets for the next show and was told his companions had been ejected and so was he. Road agent Dave Hebner is said to have told Grummert and his companions "never to come back" to any further show of Titan. MATWATCH will interview Grummert in three weeks in a MATWATCH EXTRA column on fans and wrestling.

JAKE TO GET NEW FLORIDA TRIAL

DAYTONA BEACH FL---A Florida appellate court has called for a new trial for the WWF's Jake Roberts on aggravated assault charges.

The Fifth District Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 Roberts' attorney's incompetence prejudiced the jury in the 1989 decision.

Roberts served a jail sentence and was sentenced to a 10-year probation and fined \$10,000 fine for what has been called a roadsight fight with Daytona resident John Bartlett in December 1988.

Ratings, Crowds Must Improve

DUSTY OFF THE MIKE; CLASH CALLED "PIVOTAL"

ATLANTA---A decision was made last week to remove Dusty Rhodes as color commentator from Wednesday night's CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XV on TBS. The removal is said to include all other TV appearances by Rhodes (Virgil Runnels).

The change is believed to have been a late one to supplant Rhodes with Tony Schiavone as color announcer with Jim Ross on the CLASH. WCW executive vice president Jim Herd did not return our calls last Thursday and was out of his office Friday. But another WCW source says some elements of Turner Broadcasting "and particularly Turner Home Entertainment" have been dissatisfied with Rhodes' broadcasting efforts since his January return to WCW.



Steve

Beverly

Rhodes inserted himself as CLASH and pay-cable color analyst with Jim Ross for the February TBS special. His first effort was critically panned for his apparent lack of preparation, lack of blending with Ross and frequent attempts at self-promotion. But his last two efforts have shown marked improvement and less emphasis on the exaggerated dialect of the Dusty Rhodes character.

When asked if the move is indicative of increasing pressure on Rhodes for declining TBS ratings (the 2.4 of WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING on June 1 was the highest TBS outing in seven weeks with three recent efforts registering ratings of 2 or less) and horrendous arena attendance (last week, 850 turned out in Hammond IN and 800 in Baltimore), the source said the announce move was likely not related to the TV/arena performance but offered: "It's felt that his job as talent coordinator is difficult enough that he doesn't need to spend time worrying about being an announcer. Asked if this also means the end of the BULL DROP INN, the recently-infused low-budget segment with Rhodes and WONDER YEARS regular/Missy Hyatt inamorata Jason Hervey, the source said, "Yes, more than likely." MATWATCH will seek comment from Herd this week.

Two weeks ago in MATWATCH, Herd laid the blame on the recent poor TV ratings on too much on-air hype of pay-per-view shows and said "we're still suffering from the latter days of the Ole Anderson regime." But when insiders were asked if Rhodes is beginning to be pressured about the lack of turnaround, MATWATCH was told, "Let's just say Dusty's under a lot more pressure than he was two months ago."

At least three WCW insiders have told MATWATCH the CLASH ratings performance is "pivotal" to a strong kickoff for the summer GREAT AMERICAN BASH tour, now seen as a major factor in the future of WCW. When asked for a prediction on the CLASH rating (the 14 previous specials have averaged a 4.6), MATWATCH was told, "We're hoping with one this loaded and promoted as hard as it is, we'll get between a 4.5 and a 5." That may have been a tough chore. CLASH XV (for those reading this after Wednesday) faced two strong competitors: game 5 of the Lakers-Bulls NBA finals, which could have drawn the largest audience of any NBA game in history, and a heavily-promoted first-run made-for-cable movie on USA Cable. A lot depended on how many wrestling fans are crossover NBA followers and chose to tape the CLASH, which would damage the overall rating.

Turnout Less Than 400

**WILLIAMS WINS UWF TV TITLE
IN BEACH BRAWL PAY SHOW**

PALMETTO FL----In a double bloodbath, Steve (Dr. Death) Williams defeated Bam Bam Bigelow Sunday night to win the UWF TV title in the main event of the Herb Abrams Universal Wrestling Federation inaugural pay-per-view spectacular.

The **BEACH BRAWL** two-hour special drew a reported paid crowd of 385 at the Manatee Civic Center, fewer than for some previous tapings for **SUNCOAST PRO WRESTLING** cable shows. The Williams-Bigelow match saw both competitors juice in a battle that spilled at times into the third row of ringside. **RATING: DRAW-PLUS.**

In other bouts:

STREET FIGHT/JOHNNY ACE VS. TERRY GORDY (DOUBLE COUNTOUT):

Ace subbed for the previously billed Don Muraco and looked to be fully recovered from his recent Japan injury. Ace carried the action which spilled all over the building, particularly into sections of empty seats. Commentators Craig DeGeorge and Bruno Sammartino disputed over whether it was a twin countout or DQ. **MATCH RATING: POWERSLAM.**

STRAP MATCH/PAUL ORNDORFF D. COL. DeBEERS: Different kind of strap match. The ref tossed the strap in the air, jumpball style, and the first to get it used it on the other one. Orndorff won it with a piledriver. Paul was waving the American flag when DeBeers pulled out a police stun gun and fired it at Orndorff's throat to knock him out. **BOMB-PLUS...**an editorial on this next week.

BOB BACKLUND D. IVAN KOLOFF: The hardcores may not care for Bob but he looked tremendous here in about a 5-minute victory. After, Lou Albano and Ivan's manager Mr. Red got into a dispute and Lou pulled off Red's pants. **DRAW.**

UWF WOMEN'S TITLE/ROCKIN' ROBIN D. CANDI DIVINE: At least Robin didn't sing on this one. About a nine-minute effort but I'm glad Robin's not in LPWA. **BOMB-PLUS.**

WET 'N' WILD (STEVE RAY/SUNNY BEACH) D. CACTUS JACK/BOB ORTON JR.: John Tolos made this one despite his signing with the WWF (see **THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES**) and was suspended in a cage. In a predictable ploy, Tolos tossed a set of knucks down to the mat and

as Orton was preparing to deck Ray, Steve ducked and Orton KO'd Cactus by mistake. Ray scored the pin and when Cactus revived, Jack barreled into Orton and destroyed him, despite Tolos' efforts to separate them. **RESTHOLD-PLUS...**primarily for post-match.

On ROSS SHOW

**DUSTY PREDICTS
ALL LOSERS
ON RADIO**

ATLANTA----Outside of forecasting a Bobby Eaton-Great Muta world title match at **THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH** and Arn Anderson to leave WCW, a mellow, pleasant Dusty Rhodes entertained an hour of **THE JIM ROSS SHOW** Sunday on WSB-AM.

Rhodes was soft-spoken and relaxed and far more articulate than the oft-obnoxious Dusty character. He called his Dick Murdoch his greatest tag partner and said "Terry Allen was a great one who picked up a lot of slack when I was too fat and too slow to do what I used to."

One caller asked Rhodes when his son Dustin would win his first title. The WCW booker answered: "If I had listed to Dustin, he would have won his first title when he was 12 years old. But he has to do everything a little better than everyone else and take a lot more time because he's Dusty Rhodes' son."

Rhodes told a caller Terry Funk was his "greatest foe." Asked to name the best wrestler and tag team ever, Rhodes answered Ric Flair and Ole and Gene Anderson, while a caller argued Lou Thesz and the Assassins.

One listener challenged Rhodes about Sid Vicious' departure to the WWF and asked why WCW "is becoming like the WWF circus?" Rhodes said: "Sid Vicious believed he had a tremendous amount of talent. He didn't want to go through what it takes to be number one here." On the circus charge: "P.N. News is a tremendous athlete. I used to be flamboyant just like him. I don't call it WCW circus but WCW marketing. If you don't like the music, the wrestling will soon be on." Rhodes never answered the caller's inquiry as to why he (Dusty) joined the WWF in 1989.

On a note about steroids, Rhodes blasted them, saying: "I think steroids is a drug and it shouldn't be used. I'm living proof you don't have to use steroids to be successful."

CAPT. LOU'S CORNER: Weaker than even some of the bad matches. Luna Vachon and the Blackhearts basically walked away and left Lou to babble. The entire segment couldn't have lasted more than a minute. **BOMB.**

MASS (MASK) (MASKED) CONFUSION D. POWER TWINS: The announcers and graphics operator had as much trouble with the former Killer Bees' names as WCW did deciding whether to call Keiji Mutoh "Mota," "Muto" or "Muta." B. Brian Blair scored the fall on this one with the mask switch.

In one other bout, the Blackhearts d. Firecat and one of the UWF's TV jobbers. In addition to Don Muraco not appearing, Boris Zhukov, scheduled originally against Ace, was not on the show and S.D. Jones and the Haitian Sensation did not compete.

This report was compiled from accounts from three **MATWATCH**ers, two of whom bought the show on pay-cable and one who attended the live event. The two pay buyers rated the show "slightly better than an average weekly UWF TV show but not much better."

The cablecast was only available in 1.7 million homes and no systems in California, Florida or in most of the Southeast offered the program.

An independent check of advance PPV sales prior to the show indicated a likely buy-rate of 0.134, which would have placed **BEACH BRAWL** only 2,200 homes, for gross revenues of \$33,000 for the \$14.95 price tag.

Despite the apparently weak purchase rate, Abrams and some of his associates were telling some of the live crowd of plans for another pay show in the fall.

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(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]:

Rockers d. Tom Stone/Bob Bennett; Bret Hart d. Ricky Rice; Undertaker d. Jim Evans; Jim Duggan d. Gary Wilde; (CLIP) Sid Justice; Ted DiBiase d. Dave Sigfritts; Berserker d. Warren Bianchi; Jake Roberts d. Brooklyn Brawler. RESTHOLD.

[SUPERSTARS]: Sgt. Slaughter d. Buck Zumhove; Bossman d. Al Burke; (UPDATE) Andre the Giant rejects Jimmy Hart's managerial bid, Earthquake bashes Andre's knee w. megaphone & Andre can't get up; Virgil d. Bob Bradley; (CLIP) Sid Justice; (FURNERAL PARLOR) I.R. Schyster; Warlord d. Red Tyler; Davey Boy Smith d. W.T. Jones; Berserker d. Gary Jackson by countout; Ricky Steamboat d. Dan Johnson. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Bushwhackers d. Stone/Frankie De Falco; (GUESTS) Mr. Fuji/Orient Express bring geisha to give Bobby Heenan footbath; (SPECIAL REPORT) Sgt. Slaughter & friends run PTW audience plant through boot camp; (REPLAY) Heenan chased by Hulk Hogan on cycle; (GUEST) DiBiase who pays audience plant \$300 to kiss Heenan's feet, and breaks egg on kid's chin one second before he wins \$200; Steamboat d. Johnson; Kerry Von Erich d. Brawler (GUEST) Big Bossman; Slaughter d. Tugboat by using helmet; Earthquake d. Kevin Krueger; (UPDATE) Andre-Hart-'Quake angle; Warlord d. Tyler; Duggan d. Wilde; (SUPERTAPE) Demolition Crush vs. Shawn Michaels; Undertaker d. Evans; Curt Hennig d. Brad Kramer; (FINALE) Heenan gets shock by electric handcuffs from Bubba. RESTHOLD.

(UIW) - Stonewall Lawler d. Beachboy Vinnie Young; A.J. Fritzoid d. Black Ranger; Steve Valentino d. Killer Kirk Dredd w. feet on ropes; Sledgehammer McGill d. Bob Wissman; Rasta the Voodoomon d. Kerry Davis; Axl Rotten d. Reggie Royce; King Kaluha d. Mr. Bojangles using trunks; (VIDEO) Monster Minute. RESTHOLD.

(PORTLAND) - [6/1]: Grappler d. Mike Winner; C.W. Bergstrom draw vs. J.J. Funk; Bart Sawyer/Steve Doll d. Bruise Brothers by DQ then Bruises hang Sandy Barr over top rope. Oliver saves; Larry Oliver d. Dirty White Boy; Rip Oliver d. Al Madrid by DQ when Bruises run in until Larry saves; (ANGLE) Doug Masters w. knee injury says he'll get even w. "responsible party." DRAW.

[6/8]: Winner d. Bergstrom on reversal after Barr told C.W. used trunks; [PACIFIC NW TITLE] Doll d. Grappler by DQ to retain belt when Bruises run in & Grap throws Barr over top but Sawyer doubleclotheslines Bruises. But Bruises post four faces trying to save, Rip kicked w. loaded boot until Demolition Crush Brian Adams arrives to clean house; Sawyer d. Madrid; Funk d. Masters; [PNW TAG TITLE] Oliver/Sawyer d. Bruises by DQ so Bruises keep belts; (ANGLE) DWB puts Grap on training regimen of "only" 12 beers a day and in bed by 3 a.m. POWERSLAM.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - Fabian d. Eddie Sweat; Mad Dog Joe d. Festus by using bone; (LPWA) Denise Storm d. Alma Alvarez; (CLASSIC/HOUSTON) Chavo Guerrero d. Bill Irwin by DQ; Brute Force d. Jim Owens/John Myers; (INTL/WWC) Invaders d. Sheepherders; Steve Lawler/Atom Steel d. Chris Walker/Mike Servich. RESTHOLD.

(IWCCW) - Madisons d. Equalizers (rerun); Mr. Fantasy d. Tony Roma; Curly Moe d. Magic Man; Tasmaniac d. Kim Serrafano; (PWI PRESS CONF.) Bill Apter w. Kevin Von Erich. BOMB.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - Brad Rheingans d. Boris Zhukov; Tiny Tom/Lone Eagle d. Billy the Kid/Little Tokyo; Greg Gagne d. Jimmy Garvin. BOMB.

(USWA) - [CHALLENGE]: Tony Anthony d. Mascara del Fuego; Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller d. El Gran Colosso/El Grande Pistolero; Gary Young d. Colosso by DQ when Tom Prichard leaves announce table, attacks & chairs Young; (TX WOMEN'S TITLE) Sweet Georgia Brown d. Sweet Sherri; Bill Dundee d. Anthony. RESTHOLD. [BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Texas Ranger d. Ben Jordan; (ANGLE) Dundee & son Jamie make up; Eric Embry d. Don Kelley when Lone Ranger runs in, chases Eric. Lone unmask as Doug Gilbert; (PIPKIN BLDG.) Eddie Gilbert vs. Anthony; Jarrett/Fuller d. Scorpion/Freddie Morton when Embry/Tom Prichard/Tex Salenger/Master Blaster handcuff Jeff & Salenger/Blaster "smother" Fuller w. plastic bag; (8-MAN) Salenger/Blaster/Prichard/Antony d. Eddie Gilbert/Davis/Hurricane Walker/Freezer Thompson but Fuller/Jarrett chase heels w. 2x4. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - Anthony d. Prichard by DQ when Sweet Georgia runs in but Dirty White Girl Kim decks Georgia; (PIPKIN) Gilbert Brothers d. Embry/Prichard by DQ when Salenger/Blaster run in. Jarrett/Fuller save but Texas Ranger runs in until Jerry Lawler saves; (ANGLE) Embry insults Lawler at announce desk but leaves it to Carl Stiles/Rnager to attack Lawler, who cleans house of both heels; (VIDEO) Lawler vs. the world; Jarrett d. Gary Scott; Stiles d. Chris Frazier; (ANGLE) Embry comes out & insults Jarrett & Eric/Salenger/Prichard triple-team Jeff, who cleans house of all of them; (ANGLE) Embry tries it again & batch of faces save Jarrett; (6-MAN) Dundee/Danny Davis/Gilberts d. Scorpions/Chris Candido/Salenger. RESTHOLD....but Embry's becoming more than annoying.

(WCW/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Terry Taylor/Arn Anderson d. Dustin Rhodes/Ricky Morton when Ricky departs & Curtis Hughes decks Dustin; P.N. News d. Greg Sawyer; (VIDEO) Desperados; Steiners d. Tim Frye/Rob Morgan; (RECAP) Sting-Nikita Koloff saga; Koloff d. Tommy Rich; Brian Pillman d. Doug Gilbert; One-Man Gang d. Dave Johnson; Barry Windham d. Ian Weston when Magilla Pillman runs in, decks & chases Barry. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WCW PRO]: P.N.W. d. Frye; Stan Hansen d. Joey Maggs; (LARRY Z'S LEGENDS) Hansen; Big Josh d. Greg Sawyer; Angel of Death/Danny Spivey d. Larry Santo/Keith Hart; Rhodes d. Bob Cook; Bobby Eaton d. Rip Rogers; (VIDEO) Desperados; (RECAP) Pillman-Windham saga; (8-MAN) Ric Flair/Windham/Gang/Koloff no contest vs. Sting/El Gigante/Pillman/Tommy Rich when Nikita chains Sting during ring intros. P.N.W. comes out to sub, then Sting returns to brawl w. Nikita to dressing room. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - Reggie Bennett d. Susan Sexton by DQ; Magnificent Mini d. Cheryl Day; Judy Martin/Lelani Kai d. The Beast/Alma Alvarez; Misty Blue Simmes/Allison Royal d. Candi Divine/Rusty Thomas; Bambi/Malaya Hosaka d. Nasty Girls; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) More on split of America's team. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - El Misterioso/El Volador/La Mano d. Espectro Jr./Javier Llanes/El Supremo 1 2-3 falls by countout in 3rd; Octagon/Atlantis/Kato Kung Lee 1 d. Emilio Charles Jr./Fuerza Guerrera/El Satanico 2-3; (CMLL WORLD HWT. TITLE/2ND ROUND/BATTLE ROYAL) Eliminated: Black Magic, Mascara Ano Dos Mil; Advancing: Konnan el Barbaro, El Rayo de Jalisco Jr.; (6-MAN) Fabuloso Blondy (Ken Timbs)/Nitron/El Perro Aguayo d. Sangre Chicana/Lizmark/LaFiera 2-3. RESTHOLD.

(WINDY CITY) - Russian Brute d. Curly Rich; Luscious Leroy d. Lance Christopher when Hurricane Smith tripped Christopher.

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Lance & Leroy brawl after; Steve Regal d. Hawkeye Cody Hunter when Regal clotheslines Hunter w. cowboy rope but Hunter grabs rope & chases regal. BOMB-PLUS.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Junkyard Dog/Ron Simmons d. Jim Corbett/Jeff Sord; Rhodes/Morton d. Mark Kyle/Tom Burton; Gang/Angel of Death d. Larry Santo/Phillip Parrish; El/Pillman

d. State Patrol; (LARRY'S LEGENDS) Koloff ambush sickles guest Sting, who revives & brawls w. Koloff to dressing room; Koloff d. Scott Allen but Sting runs in & pullapart begins; Anderson/Flair d. Eaton/Big Josh when Bobby gets axhandle from Arn & is caught deckling Flair/Arn; (CLASH REPORT) Paul E. on Sting-Koloff, Luger-Muta, Flair-Eaton feuds; (10/20/90) Great Muta d. Eddie Gilbert. DRAW.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Steve Austin d. Hart; (WCW TV TITLE) Eaton d. Anderson by DQ to retain belt when Flair runs in; (MISSY'S MANOR) Teddy Long/Johnny B. Badd; Black Blood d. Mike Maverick; (BULL DROP INN) Dusty & Jason w. Arn but Paul E. comes out after & rips apart Hervey until Jason calls for "Uncle Dusty;" P.N.W. d. Joe Cruz; Diamond Stud d. Johnny Meadows; Pillman/Rhodes d. Windham/Gang when Ratt Butler II distracts Barry. Barry/Gang leave Brian laying after; (CLASH REPORT) same as PH. DRAW.

[MAIN EVENT]: Terrence Taylor d. Tim Parker; (CLASH REPORT); Rhodes d. John Peterson; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. w. Luger; (From WCW) Long/Angel ambush Simmons; (BOUNTY MATCH) Simmons d. Angel of Death; Rich d. Cruz; Flair/Anderson double countout vs. Eaton/Pillman; Other winner: Koloff. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - Dean Malenko/Tommy Rogers d. Jimmy Hardtime/Tom Sawyer; (SP FLORIDA TITLE) Full Force vs. Masked Superstar (to be continued next week). NO RATING.

(UWF) - Ivan Koloff d. Chris Michaels and Ivan & Mr. Red destroy Chris after until Bob Backlund saves w. chair; (CAPT. LOU'S CORNER) Terry Gordy; Wet 'n' Wild double DQ vs. Power Twins when both teams use surfboard & brawl; (LOU'S CORNER II) Power Twins/John Tolos; B. Brian Blair/Jim Brunzell d. Cash Jackson/Calhoun; Nikolai Volkoff d. Beast. BOMB-PLUS.



look good if she had a tummy-tuck like Missy." 4. Diamond Dallas Page, WCW PRO, on P.N. News: "It's like deodorant---an armpit right in your face." 5. Demolition Crush, PORTLAND: "When we get through with them, even people who don't watch wrestling will call them the Bruise Brothers because that's all they're gonna see." 6. Ed Zohn, UIW, on Bob Wissman: "He's gonna be like Milli Vanilli...he'll be old news." 7. Golden Idol, SATURDAY NIGHT AT RINGSIDE, to Wild Bill Irwin: "You've made a pit stop in every promotion there is. But now you're in the PWA and that's all it is, another pit stop and you're out of here." 8. Steven DeTruth, WVEU: "In St. Petersburg, I met THE respected god of pro wrestling. No, not Herb Abrams. I mean Paul E. Dangerously." 9. Scott Hudson,

PW'91, on Scotty the Body: "He's a pompous pompadoured iron pumper." 10. Jim Ross, WCW, to Paul E.: "You couldn't knock down anything but a couple of Diet Cokes."

11. Don Coss, PORTLAND, on Madril hiding foreign object: "He must have learned that from Magic Johnson." 12. Vince McMahon, PTW, to Heenan: "Some people have best abs. You have most abs." 13. Roddy Piper/Randy Savage, WWP-SU: (RP) "This is about wrestling, not toupees." (RS) "Did you hear what Piper said about you, McMahon?" 14. Piper/Savage, WWP-SU: (RP) "I didn't get an invitation to the Personal Fitness Expo." (RS) "You have to have a toupee." 15. Savage, WWP-SU:

"Winston---Roddy Piper's date for the Personal Fitness Expo." 16. Piper, WWP-SU, on W.T. Jones: "Problems? He ought to have psoriasis. It'd be easier for him to get off." 17. Al Madril, PORTLAND, on wearing L.A. Lakers shirt: "L.A. only has winners." 18. Piper/McMahon, WWP-SU: (RP) "I ain't go no psoriasis." (V) "How about seborrhea?" (RP) "I ain't got that, either. Oh, my nose runs a bit..." 19. Mick Karch, SNR, on Idol's match where loss puts him in dunktank: "People are just itching to knock you into the dunktank. All I can say is the fans better bring an umbrella." 20. Ross, WCW, on Vivacious Veronica: "Certain words come to mind, like witch or others similar."

21. Heenan/Jamieson, PTW: (BH) "We're watching someone with the IQ of a doorknob sneeze into a rag." (J) "Takes one to know one." 22. Zohn, UIW, on Axl Rotten's hair: "I don't think Clairol would do purple hair dye." 23. Mr. Bojangles, UIW, on King Kahlua: "We're gonna be stickin like Popeye's chicken." 24. Dave the Wave, UIW, on Stonewall Lawler's blows: "They would hurt a sunburn." 25. DeTruth, WVEU, to Hudson: "Quit stallling! Who do you think you are, Larry Zbyszko?" 26. Missy Hyatt, WME: "I can't stand bald men. Look at Paul E. Dangerously." 27. Doug Masters, PORTLAND, on crowds chant of "we want Rip": "Are they chanting, 'we want food, we want food?'" 28. Masters, PORTLAND: "Let us all have a moment of silence for the Portland Trailblazers." 29. Tony Schiavone, WWW, on Magilla Pillman: "Barry Windham now has a monkey on his back."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Arn Anderson, WCW, on Jason Hervey: "...this chopped off midnight cowboy." 2. DeTruth, WVEU, on Missy Hyatt: "The peroxide princess who dates children, has a voice like a megawatt transistor radio and has the journalistic integrity of a French tickler." 3. Anderson, WCW, to Dusty: "Let's don't pretend that what happened between us the last half of the '80s didn't happen." 4. The Shocker, SNR, on Tommy Ferrara/Baron Von Raschke: "These guys are in their 40s and 50s. I feel like I'm wrestling on the seniors tour." 5. Prichard, USWA, on Doyle: "At least you dress better than Michael St. John." 6. Johnny B. Badd/Paul E. (on Missy), WCW: (JBB) "I'm a BAAAD man." (PE) "And she's a BAAAD announcer." 7. Jamieson, PTW: "You know who you look like Bobby? You know Robert Redford? His mothuh." 8. Alfred Hayes, PTW: "Mr. Perfect is the most talented wrestler ever to charge the ring of the World Wrestling Federation."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Ross, PH, on Paul E.'s giggling: "What happened? Did you look at yourself in the mirror?" 2. Prichard, USWA, on Doyle: "What do you do for excitement because at I'm not sure you know what the word means?" 3. Karch, SNR, on Idol in dunktank: "Can you imagine the tidal wave when he gets dunked?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. KOJAK (DeTruth on Hudson). 2. JEANE DIXON ON STEROIDS (Hudson on DeTruth). 3. DIRTBALL (Heenan on Jamieson). 4. THE IRON LOSER (Heenan on Mike Christian).



Decision This Week

IS GLOBAL "GO" AND USWA NO FOR ESPN?

DALLAS----By the time of this week's distribution of MATWATCH, a decision may have been made to cancel the daily offerings of *USWA SUPERCARD* and *LEGENDS* on ESPN and replace it with the long-delayed Global Wrestling Federation.

But Global founder Joe Pedicino would not confirm it or discuss it at deadline. "I'm not talking to any newsletters," said Pedicino from his Atlanta home. "The last time we were on the verge of a deal it didn't work out and we got hammered. Part of that was our fault. I can tell you we are working on 'some things' but we have made no deals or signed no contracts with ESPN or any other cable or syndicated network and may not. Let's just leave it at that."

Reports began surfacing in the last 30 days after ESPN officials expressed strong objections to the content of the Monday *SUPERCARD* shows (which have regularly been pre-empted by CBA basketball and the NCAA College World Series). The cable web has a policy against blood or men striking women.

ESPN has reportedly been pressuring syndicator Max Andrews for changes in both content and with announcer Michael St. John and has threatened cancellation. A decision has to be made before the June 28 tapings in Dallas. MATWATCH has learned ESPN has asked for a 12-week series of 48 first-run episodes for the 4 p.m. (EDT) daytime slot during the summer, which would spotlight a tournament, beginning July 1 or 8.

Jerry Jarrett Promotions booker Eric Embry reportedly has been quizzing associates about "what is up," telling some he has "overheard" Jarrett "cursing Joe Pedicino."

ANOTHER WEAK WEEK: The attendance figures continue grim for WCW and if the CLASH and BASH don't turn it around, one wonders the consequences. Last week alone, 850 turned out in the 5,400-seat arena in Hammond IN and 804 paid in Baltimore.

BASH FORECASTS: WCW is still saying anything less than 10,000 for the July 14 pay-per-view will be a disappointment for Flair-Luger but that seems like a major longshot now.

NOSTALGIA TIME: Dick Slater and Dick Murdoch are being revived to go against the Steiner Brothers this summer for WCW and you figure how the heat can go on this one again.

JASONWATCH: I asked one WCW exec why, other than the understated inamorata alliance between Jason Hervey and Missy Hyatt, the promotion continues to push Hervey. One exec defended it because of his association with THE WONDER YEARS, which Turner Program Services is syndicating in reruns. But another was more plain-spoken: "He's the closest thing we can get to a celebrity. That's the only reason." Read the guest column on page 6. I assure you I have two dozen letters like it.

MORE ROSS SHOW: A couple of other notes on Dusty's guest shot, which was refereshing, he was stumped on a listener question on his opponent on the July 4, 1982, Omni card top-lined by a Flair-Backlund unification match. Turns out with was "Mr. X" who unmasked as Don Muraco. Said Dusty: "Some people around the TBS office say I'm getting a little senile."

OTHER NOTES: Ross repeated his view of Sid Vicious (Justice) as "overrated." But Dusty's memory lapsed again. When asked if he'd ever had a manager, he said no but he was indeed managed by Gary Hart when he teamed with Pak Song in Tampa (circa 1974) at the time of his famous babyface turn.

WORLD OF WWF: Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom will indeed be called the Bomber Brothers (some places are calling them Beau and Blake Beverly), handled by John Tolos (see THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES).

NEW MATADOR: The Matador gimmick originally scheduled for Konnan is now going to Tito Santana. In fact, Vince has had a crew in Mexico shooting scenes with Tito in a bullring.

KONNAN'S DUDS: Inside talk is when Konnan finally debuts, probably now in August or September, he'll be called Konnan and Titan is financing an outfit Konnan was designing himself that will cost about \$25,000. One Titaner told me Konnan's had five Hollywood fittings and the outfit itself will "make Van Vader's like King's Dominion next to Disneyland."

THE FAMILY SAGANOVICH: Ten of Jerry Saggs' family members were in the crowd for the Titan show at Hershey Park PA and Jerry's father got the biggest kick out of meeting long-time favorite George Steele, the road agent that night.

UIW GROWS: Next week, we'll have a review of the Universal Independent Wrestling TV show (keep sending me the tapes, folks) and the group is skedded for a taping June 30 at 2 p.m. at the Steeltown Entertainment Complex in Baltimore. Cactus Jack is tentatively scheduled, along with an eight-man tag.

GROWING SUNCOAST: Henry Raines has gained a SUNCOAST PRO slot on a UHF station, WBSC/Sarasota (Ch. 62), debuting June 22 at 8:30 a.m. It's available from St. Pete to Ft. Myers.

SUNCOAST SATURDAY: Suncoast drew 325 for a Bradenton card Saturday night with Tom Sawyer defeating Raines, Full Force retaining the Suncoast Florida belt over Masked Superstar and in a tag battle, Lou Perez/Tommy Rogers d. Nasty Ned Brady/Giant Outlaw.

SEEN AND HEARD: Former indie Frankie (Thumper) Lancaster is working as a bouncer at Yucatan Liquor Stand in Florida.

EDDY'S TAPINGS: Eddy Mansfield's new group has a slot on Florida's SUNSHINE NETWORK beginning in July and will tape all day next Saturday at Universal Studios near Orlando.

IN THE HOUSE: UIW has a house date Saturday night at Stoney Creek Democratic Club with Steve Valentino vs. Kirk Dredd, a 2-out-of-3 between the Lords of Darkness and Dixie Devastation, plus A.J. Fritzdorf against Axl Rotten in a chain match.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Jerry Lawler returned vs. Texas Ranger, Jeff Jarrett gained a Southern title rematch vs. Eric Embry, Embry & Carl Stiles vs. Eddie & Doug Gilbert and Jarrett/Robert Fuller vs. Master Blaster/Tex Salenger in one where the losing team had to split.

OTHER MEMPHIS: Danny Davis and Chris Candido were in a USWA light heavy title rematch, Bill Dundee vs. Ta-Gar, who looks as bad a concept as Oz and Brian Christopher vs. Jim Backlund.

WEAK LINKS: Last 2 crowds in Memphis: 450 and 340.

Other Voices

**WCW: LET'S GET
BACK TO BASICS**

By LISA HADLEY
Imperial MO
Guest Columnist

Is it my imagination, or has **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** become "The Jason and Missy Show, as of late?

It seems to me a very capable, bankable performer, Paul Heyman Jr., is being pushed into the background in favor of Missy Hyatt and Dusty Rhodes when the situation should, in my opinion, be reversed.

And, why is Jason Hervey suddenly all the rage in the wrestling world? He has contributed nothing but an annoying demeanor, that I can see. Is he just a celebrity fan, or, an attempt to grab ratings via a publicity stunt? I really don't think I can stand another **BULL DROP INN** and I'm seriously considering switching to the "McMahonland Circus" if Paul E. goes the way of Chris Cruise and Jim Cornette, just to placate a Hollywood actor, whom I personally find to be obnoxious, both as an actor and as a person. I had the misfortune to be at a telethon in St. Louis with him last year and saw how he behaves, or rather, misbehaves in person.

I'm not a fan of the Dangerously character but a show with him on color is rarely dull. WCW was foolish enough to let Jim Cornette go. It would be truly idiotic to lose someone in Paul, who can serve the same function with some fine-tuning.

I have been watching WCW wrestling for almost 12 years but they seem determined to sink their own ship---no pun intended in reference to the Bruise Cruise---by placing poor bookers at the rudder who care more about a buck than what's good for the future of WCW---and who don't know how to manage their employees well enough to keep them around for the duration of their contracts or programs.

(MATWATCH is resuming monthly guest columns. Have one on your mind? Limit it to 300-500 words. Omit all profanities. Submit to: MATWATCH, 16 ROBIN HOOD LANE, JACKSON TN 38305. No columns published in other newsletters will be accepted.)

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While **PRIME TIME WRESTLING**'s return to a Monday night slot returned it to the top of the weekly Nielsen cable ratings race, **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING** breathed a new bit of audience life in nearly two months, for the week ending June 3.

Audience levels remained low but WCW posted its best share in three months. **WWF PRIME TIME**, with Ted DiBiase, Big Bossman and Mr. Fuji as guests, won the week with a 2.5 rating and 4.1% share of audience but fell 4% from the previous week.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, with a Big Josh-Terrence Taylor topliner and Barry Windham-Brian Pillman angle, rallied for a 2.4/6.7, up 20%. The 6.7% share was WCW's tops since March.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING stayed flat at a 2.3 rating but its 7.2 share was up from the previous week. An airing of the Lex Luger-Danny Spivey match from **WRESTLE WAR '91** from 6:40-7 p.m. June 2 scored a 1.9/4.4, down 14% from the May 26 **MAIN EVENT**.

WCW POWER HOUR slipped 6% to a 1.5.

CABLE

<u>Week Ending June 3</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Share</u>	<u>Total Homes</u>
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 6/3)	2.5	4.1	1.42 million
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 6/1)	2.4	6.7	1.36 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 6/2)	2.3	7.2	1.30 million
WCW [Luger vs. Spivey] (TBS 6/2)	1.9	4.4	1.09 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 6/1)	1.5	6.4	850,500

TV TEMPO

(Continued from Page 4)

I'VE GOT A SECRET AWARD - Michael St. John, WMC, on Eddie Gilbert kneelift: "...a high kneelift, reminiscent of the days of Johnny Walker."

BEST PICTURES - 1. WCW, Pillman pinning Windham. 2. UIW, Axl Rotten taking bows to the crowd. 3. PTW, DiBiase crushing egg on little kid's chin. 4. WME, Arn Anderson posting own shoulder. 5. PTW, Percy's grin while waving the urn.

VIVID IMAGINATION AWARD - Hyatt, WME: "That's what everybody tunes in to see...is me.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Bossman, PTW: "...what goes around comes around." 2. Zohn/Wave, UIW: "...nip and tuck battle."

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